Spreading The Word: Groundings In The Philosophy Of Language

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This book provides a comprehensive introduction to many central aspects of the philosophy of language, among them representation, rule following, convention, references. It is one of the most important books in contemporary meta-ethics. Chapters 5-7, I think, constitute the best introduction to Blackburn's quasi-realism.
It is especially the impact of the semantics/pragmatics distinction that has kept philosophy of language and linguistics quite closely connected, since philosophers who study language need to take care to ground their theorizing in the data without overshooting what the data can support. Handbooks and Textbooks. There are a number of comprehensive and high-quality reference works in philosophy of language, including Hale and Wright 1997 and Lepore and Smith 2006. In many cases, the articles or books are written by authors with a serious acquaintance with linguistics. Blackburn, S. 1984. Spreading the word. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press. Grounding in communication (or common ground) is a concept proposed by Herbert H. Clark and Susan E. Brennan. It comprises the collection of "mutual knowledge, mutual beliefs, and mutual assumptions" that is essential for communication between two people. Successful grounding in communication requires parties "to coordinate both the content and process". The concept is also common in philosophy of language. Philosophy of Language is the reasoned inquiry into the origins of language, the nature of meaning, the usage and cognition of language, and the relationship between language and reality. It overlaps to some extent with the study of Epistemology, Logic, Philosophy of Mind and other fields (including linguistics and psychology), although for many Analytic Philosophers it is an important discipline in its own right. Linguists of the Renaissance period were particularly interested in the idea of a philosophical language (or universal language), spurred on by the gradual discovery in the West of Chinese characters and Egyptian hieroglyphs.